

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19 and 21-31 are now pending in the application, with Claims 16 and 17 being independent. Claims 1-15 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-18, 21, 24-26, 28 and 31 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-15 had been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, although there is no indication that the restriction requirement has been made final. Nevertheless, in order to expedite issuance, Applicants have cancelled non-elected Claims 1-15.

The disclosure was objected to for not depicting the tube pump portion 610 in the drawings. Without conceding the propriety of this objection, Applicants have amended Fig. 13 in the accompanying Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawing to more clearly show reference numeral 610. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are requested.

Claims 24-26, 28 and 31 were objected to for minor informalities. Without conceding the propriety of these objections, Applicants have amended the claims generally in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that Claims 20, 21 and 26-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of

allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended Claim 17 to recite the allowable feature of Claim 20, and consequently this claim is seen to be in condition for allowance. Claim 16 has been amended similarly and is also seen to be in condition for allowance. Claims 16 and 17 have been further amended to no longer recite that the tube is disposed along an arcuate guide portion, but a feature of the various elements being separable from an arcuate guide portion has been included. These amendments are not believed to affect the allowability of the claims.

The Office Action set forth a rejection of Claims 16-19 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 16 and 17 are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Thus, independent Claims 16 and 17 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 16 and 17. Dependent Claims 18, 19 and 21-31 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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